

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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## IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 20 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for October 2003 totaled 47.9 million pounds, down 20 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. October production was down 1 percent from September's 48.3 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-October 2003 period totaled 491 million pounds, down 6 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Red meat production for the United States totaled 4.15 billion pounds in October, down 5 percent from the 4.38 billion pounds produced in October 2002. Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, down 8 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,231 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.91 billion pounds, a record monthly high and up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.64 million head, 3 percent above October 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 267 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 265,500 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago. January-October red meat production was 39.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb & mutton was down 9 percent.

**For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.**